

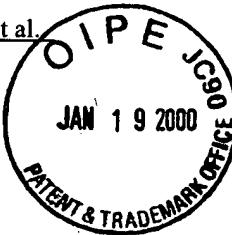
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Attorney Docket No. 98,714)

Applicant or
Patentee:

David Baunoch, et al.

Serial or
Patent No.

09/212,367



Filed or
Issued: December 15, 1998

Title: Method and Apparatus for Automated Reprocessing of Tissue Samples

**VERIFIED STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 C.F.R. § 1.9(f) AND § 1.27(c)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

I hereby declare that I am

the owner of the small business concern identified below:
 an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN: Ventana Medical Systems, Inc.

ADDRESS OF CONCERN: 3865 North Business Center Dr. Tucson, AZ 85705

I hereby declare that the above-identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 C.F.R. § 121, and referenced in 37 C.F.R. § 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time, or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention, Method and Apparatus for Automated Reprocessing of Tissue Samples by inventor(s) David Baunoch, et al.
described in

the specification filed herewith.
 Application Serial No. 09/212,367 filed December 15, 1998
 Patent No. _____, issued _____.

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual concern or organization having rights in the invention must file verified statements averring to their status as small entities, and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR § 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR § 1.9(d), or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR § 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted conveyed or licensed or am under obligation under contract of law to assign, grant, convey or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

no such person, concern, or organization exists
 each such person is listed below.

FULL NAME Ventana Medical Systems, Inc.

ADDRESS 3865 North Business Center Dr. Tucson, AZ 85705

Individual Small Business Concern Nonprofit Organization

Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights in the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR § 1.27).

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 C.F.R. § 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing therein, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING: Russell Richerson

TITLE IN ORGANIZATION: Vice President, R&D

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING: Ventana Medical Systems, Inc. 3865 N. Business Center Drive
Tucson, Arizona 85705

Signature: R.B. Richerson

Date: 8/31/77